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REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in view of the final Office Action dated February 9, 2006. Claims 1-11 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 4-7, 10 and 11 being in independent form. The Office Action indicated that claims 4 and 11 have been allowed. By this Amendment, claim 2 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention thereof. It is submitted that the amendment of claim 2 does not introduce any new subject matter or new issues. Therefore, entry of this Amendment is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as purportedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,137,597 to Kanaya et al.

Applicant has carefully considered the Examiner's comments and the cited art, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 5-7 and 10 are patentable over the cited art, for at least the following reasons.

The present application is directed to improvements to facsimile communications by a receiving (or called) facsimile apparatus with the capability of using optional frames, wherein the called facsimile machine checks the identification information of the calling facsimile machine which identifies the calling facsimile machine. If the calling machine identification information corresponds to the prestored identification information, facsimile communications operation using the optional frame is performed by the receiving facsimile machine. On the other hand, if the calling machine identification information does not correspond with prestored identification information for the different machines which adopt the common specification of optional frames, optional frames are not used and instead standard facsimile operations that do not use the optional frame are performed by the receiving facsimile machine for facsimile communications with the calling facsimile machine. Each of independent claims 1, 5-7 and 10 addresses these features, as well as additional features.

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Kanaya, as understood by Applicant, is directed to controlling a network facsimile apparatus so as to more securely deliver image information received over a publicly switched network to the destined recipient via a local area network and to avoid delivering the received information to an unintended recipient.

Kanaya, column 6, lines 39-55, proposes that the transmitted information include a sub-address and password information of a destination user. Such information does not identify the calling facsimile machine, but rather is security information that only the intended recipient would know. As Kanaya further proposes at column 7, lines 13-24, when the network facsimile apparatus receives transmitted information including image information and sub-address and the password information of the destination user from a remote terminal over the publicly switched network, the network facsimile apparatus sends an e-mail message to the destination user at the mail address corresponding to the received sub-address informing the destination user of the receipt of the image information and requesting the destination user to supply password information in order to allow the destination user access to the image information.

In another example proposed by Kanaya at column 9, line 7 through column 11, line 50, the sub-address and password information of a plurality of destination users are registered by the network facsimile apparatus in an address conversion table. Again, such sub-address and password information identify and are specific to the destination users, and not to the calling terminal. As Kanaya states at column 11, lines 16-24: "... when the sub-address signal SUB and the password signal PWD are received from the transmitting terminal when the image information is received, the received image information is transferred to the terminal at the mail address corresponding to the sub-address specified by the received sub-address signal SUB only when the password received from the destination user accords with the password registered in the address conversion table corresponding to the sub-address."

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Further, it should be noted that in the example proposed by Kanaya at column 9, line 7 through column 11, line 50, the network facsimile apparatus proceeds with receiving the communication from the transmitting terminal, and only after the communication is completed the network facsimile apparatus checks the sub-address and password information.

Applicant simply does not find teaching or suggestion in Kanaya, however, of a facsimile communication method for performing a Group 3 facsimile communications operation using an optional frame signal, which includes (a) receiving a call from a calling facsimile machine for a facsimile communications operation using an optional frame and identification information of the calling facsimile machine, (b) verifying the identification information of the calling facsimile machine with the identification information prestored in the memory, (c) canceling performance of the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame and executing standard facsimile operations that do not use the optional frame, when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine does not correspond with the identification information prestored in the memory, (d) executing the facsimile communications operation using the optional frame when the identification information of the calling facsimile machine corresponds to the identification information prestored in the memory, and (e) identification information of the calling facsimile machine identifies the calling facsimile machine, as provided by the claimed invention of claim 1.

Independent claims 5-7 and 10 are patentably distinct from the cited art for at least similar reasons.

The Office Action indicates that claims 4 and 11 have been allowed.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's statement in the Office Action of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter and submits that the allowed claims recite subject matter which further supports patentability for reasons in addition to those identified in the Examiner's

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statement in the Office Action.

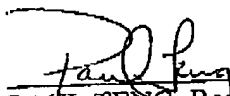
In view of the remarks above, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, Applicant earnestly solicits the allowance of the application.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Patent Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


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